

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100
Rockville, Maryland 20850

MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2009

7:07 p.m.

ATTENDING

Leila Aridi Afas
Vanessa E. Atterbeary
Jennifer Cryor Baldwin
Wilma K. Holmes
Chandra Walker Holloway
Jaclyn R. Lichter
Ivonne C. Lindley
Larniece McKoy Moore
Manar S. Morales
Reggie L. Oldak
Tedi S. Osias
Sanjay Rai
Jocelyn Samuels

STAFF

Leah Goldfine
Ruby Marcelo
Paula S. Rodgers
Judith Vaughan-Prather

ABSENT

Jane Hobdy
Resa Levy

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.....

President Oldak

President Oldak called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Additions to the agenda were noted under the Staff Report, Liaison Reports, and Announcements. Upon the motion made by Commissioner Osias, seconded by Commissioner Morales, the agenda with the additions was approved unanimously.

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Morales, seconded by Commissioner Osias and passed unanimously, the Minutes of the January 19, 2009 meeting were approved as written.

II. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTOldak

A. Meeting with County Executive

The Commission for Women's annual meeting with County Executive Leggett will take place following tonight's CFW meeting. The Executive Committee comprised of President Oldak and Commissioners Atterbeary, Lichter, Lindley, and Osias, along with Executive Director Vaughan-Prather, will discuss the work of the committees and the Women's Legislative Briefing.

B. Women's History Month

Women's History Month is March. Staff is coordinating a presentation for the Women's Studies program at Montgomery College's Germantown Campus to provide a CFW panel discussion on contemporary women's issues. Staff will try to identify a date with the College for a panel presentation on immigrant women, single mothers and poverty, and work life balance. ***(STAFF NOTE: This has been scheduled for March 31 at 9 a.m. at the Germantown Campus, in the High Technology and Science Center, Room 216)***

C. Montgomery County Council of Women's Organizations (MCCWO)

The proposed March 18th MCCWO meeting did not work out because the date was unavailable for both the proposed speaker and the proposed location. So, the CFW will convene the next meeting of the MCCWO on May 20. The Mothers and Poverty Committee's Action Agenda will be presented at the May 20 program. The program will take place at the CFW office.

D. Commissioner Recruitment

Five commissioners' terms will be expiring in June. Commissioner Osias having served two full terms is not eligible for reappointment. Commissioners Aridi Afas, Atterbeary, Lichter and Morales are eligible for reappointment and were asked to inform Executive Director Vaughan-Prather if they are interested in continuing to serve, and they should submit a letter to the County Executive requesting reappointment.

Because recruitment to fill vacant terms can be done at the same time as recruitment to fill the expired terms, President Oldak said that it was a good time for all commissioners to think about their plans and carefully consider whether they are able to continue serving on the Commission. If any commissioners are considering resigning, they are encouraged to notify staff of their intention as soon as possible. Resignations must be done in writing via mail or email.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - There was no Unfinished Business to report.

IV. NEW BUSINESS - There was no New Business to report.

V. STAFF REPORTVaughan-Prather

A. Chinese Women's Delegation

On February 17th, MCCFW hosted a leadership delegation of 22 women and their interpreters from Henan Province of China. Copies of the County's booklet, "*Know Your County*" translated into Chinese, as well as CFW/CCC information packets and CFW mugs were given to each of the visitors.

B. FY10 Budget

The County Executive's Budget will be published on March 16 and will be made public at that time.

C. National Association of Commissions for Women (NACW)

Information and applications to join NACW as affiliate members were distributed to each commissioner. Commissioners, staff and interns are encouraged to join NACW as affiliate members. Each year, current and former members and staff are invited to join to demonstrate their continued support for the work of commissions for women all across the country.

NACW Intern, Daniele Araujo, will finish her internship on May 12 and NACW will be looking for another intern. The position requires 15-20 hours per week and pays \$11-12 per hour.

D. Annual Report

The FY08 Annual Report has been completed and copies were distributed to the commissioners.

E. LEP Advisory Committee

Former Commissioner, Lily Qi, now the Community Liaison in the County Executive's Office of Community Partnerships, is staffing an advisory taskforce that will review how the county can better serve limited English proficient residents. Executive Director Vaughan-Prather was asked to serve on the advisory taskforce. The first meeting takes place on February 28.

F. Violence in Relationships BrochureGoldfine

In January, the Violence in Relationships brochure was mailed to a number of county agencies and other organizations. In addition, a list serve notice was sent, notifying others that the brochure is available. Requests for the booklet have been coming in. Casa de Maryland requested 500 copies of the booklet and staff will order reprinting because supplies are already dwindling.

- G. A student intern has been reviewing CFW's historical files in an attempt to identify positions taken by CFW over the years. The identification process is proving to be more complex than originally thought, and may prove time consuming and above the abilities of a student.

Commissioners discussed a suggestion by Commissioner Osias that a record be made of just the legislative agenda issues for which CFW took positions—starting with recent years and working back.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Policy and Legislation (PAL)Lichter

1. Commissioner Lichter reviewed recent additions to the CFW's 2009 Legislative Agenda approved at the January 28 meeting. Also at that meeting, the PAL Committee was authorized to make additions to the agenda or changes to the ranking of its bills as necessary; those changes would then be brought to the full CFW for ratification. The bills, which have all been ranked as "S2" include:

- (a) Domestic Violence – Temporary Protective Orders–Extension
H.B. 98 /S.B. 601)
- (b) Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act of 2009 (H.B. 288 / S.B. 368)
- (c) Gender Equity Health Coverage Act (H.B. 1280)
- (d) Maryland Medical Assistance Program – Family Planning Services-
Eligibility (H.B. 1279)
- (e) Healthy Families Healthy Workplaces Act (H.B. 1296)

Upon the motion made by Commissioner Aridi Afas and seconded by Commissioner Holmes, the additions to the CFW legislative agenda for 2009 were ratified.

2. Commissioner Samuels reported on a Supreme Court case in which white firefighters in New Haven, Connecticut are claiming reverse discrimination because a test was eliminated that was found to have a disparate impact on African Americans was determined not to be a valid measure of skills required for the position. The white firefighters claim that because they benefited from the test, its termination represents reverse discrimination.

Commissioner Samuels moved that the CFW sign on to an amicus brief supporting the position that elimination of discriminatory practices does not constitute reverse discrimination. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Lichter and unanimously passed. Commissioner Lichter will forward a copy of the brief to Executive Director Vaughan-Prather.

3. The PAL Committee proposes to create a PAL Alert e-mail distribution list inviting constituents to join and receive action alerts on legislative issues from the CFW. A copy of the invitation to join the distribution list was distributed to commissioners.

4. Women's Legislative BriefingAtterbeary

The Women's Legislative Briefing Planning Committee held its wrap-up meeting on February 18 and is looking for suggestions for next year's keynote speaker. The 2010 Briefing is scheduled to take place on Sunday, January 31, 2010. Commissioners discussed some possible names for keynote speaker.

B. Immigrant Women in Montgomery (IWin)Lindley

1. The Domestic Workers booklet is being updated to include the new county law that went into effect in January 2009 requiring that domestic workers be offered an employment contract. The domestic workers brochure was printed before this new law went into effect and did not include information about the new law.
2. The IWin Committee will visit the Charles Gilchrist Center in March in lieu of a meeting. Staff will confirm the date and time of the visit.
3. IWin has agreed to participate in the County's Diversity Day celebration in April by offering a workshop on "*Immigrant Women as Caregivers.*" However, the date for which the CFW was invited to present conflicts with Passover and the MCPS Spring break. CFW staff will ask to have the date changed.
4. The County Executive's Office of Community Partnerships liaisons to the immigrant and minority communities will be invited to IWin's April 22 meeting to give their perspectives on the issues affecting the women of these communities.

C. Mothers and Poverty (MAP)Osias

The MAP Committee met on February 11, 2009 and is continuing to work on the Action Agenda, which the Committee plans to have ready by May.

VII. LIAISON REPORTS

- A. Family Justice Center (FJC) - *Executive Director Vaughan-Prather read the following notes from Commissioner Levy who was absent due to her husband's illness.*

The Family Justice Center is scheduled to open in April or May. A press conference was held on February 5 and a \$60,000 check was presented to the FJC

Board by Verizon. The Board has submitted grant applications for other funding. On March 18, Montgomery Alliance for Community Giving is organizing a benefit dinner to raise funds to outfit the FJC children's waiting room and library.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. The Maryland Commission for Women sent our Commission a beautiful gift – the book “Women of Achievement in Maryland History” by Carolyn Stegman. A letter of appreciation will be sent to MCW President Helen Holton.
- B. The County's Department of Health and Human Services is holding a public hearing on its FY10 recommended operating budget on March 18.
- C. Former commissioner Anne Kasper is being recognized by The Maryland Daily Record's award program, “Maryland Health Care Heroes.”
- D. The Harford County Commission for Women is hosting a “Women's Conference” on March 31, 2009, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Bel Air, Maryland.
- E. The County's Universal Pre-School Implementation Work Group is holding a public forum on March 11, 2009 at 6 p.m. The group's final report and recommendations will be released prior to the forum.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes Submitted By
Paula S. Rodgers
Montgomery County Commission for Women

CFW ACTION / FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

<input type="checkbox"/>	1.	Women's History Month is in March. Staff is coordinating a program for the Women's Studies program at Montgomery College's Germantown Campus to provide a CFW panel discussion on women's issues. Staff will try to identify a date with the College for a panel presentation on immigrant women, single mothers and poverty, and work life balance. <i>(STAFF NOTE: This has been scheduled for March 31 at 9 a.m. at the Germantown Campus)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/>	2.	CFW will convene the next meeting of the MCCWO on May 20. The Mothers and Poverty Committee's Action Agenda will be presented at the May 20 program. The program will take place at the CFW office.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3.	Commissioners Aridi Afas, Atterbeary, Lichter and Morales are eligible for reappointment and should inform Executive Director Vaughan-Prather if they are interested in continuing to serve and they should submit a letter to the County Executive requesting reappointment. All commissioners should think about their plans to continue. If any commissioners are considering resigning, they should notify staff of their intention as soon as possible. Resignations must be done in writing via mail or email.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4.	Commissioners, staff and interns are encouraged to join NACW as affiliate members.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5.	Commissioner Lichter will forward a copy of the amicus brief regarding the New Haven, Connecticut firefighter's lawsuit to Executive Director Vaughan-Prather.
<input type="checkbox"/>	6.	Staff has confirmed March 20 at 2 p.m. for the IWin's visit to the Charles Gilchrist Center.